

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
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R 042017Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9595
INFO AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 11153

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PINS, PBOR, CD, LY
SUBJ: CHAD: SEBHA II AGREEMENT

REFS: A. NDJAMENA 1299. B. NDJAMENA 1317.

1. AS OF APRIL 3 QUAI OFFICIALS SHARED EMBASSY
NDJAMENA'S UNCERTAINTY ABOUT WHAT THE SEBHA II AGREE-
MENT WILL MEAN TO CHAD'S FUTURE. THERE WAS NO DOUBT,
HOWEVER, THAT IF CARRIED OUT IN THE MOST LITERAL SENSE
IT WOULD MEAN THE EFFECTIVE END OF THE PRESENT CHAD
GOVERNMENT. THE FRENCH NATURALLY FOCUSED ON THE PRO-
VISION OF THE AGREEMENT CALLING FOR THE MIXED COMMISSION
TO DETERMINE THAT THERE ARE NO FOREIGN FORCES IN CHAD.
IF AN INTERPRETATION WERE ACCEPTED REQUIRING THE
DEPARTURE OF FRENCH SOLDIERS, THE MALLOUM GOVERNMENT
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WOULD BE LEFT COMPLETELY OPEN TO REBEL AND LIBYAN
PRESSURES. (VICE PRESIDENT DJIME'S PRESS CONFER-
ENCE REMARKS--REF B--APPEAR TO INDICATE GOC WANTS
NOTHING TO DO WITH SUCH AN INTERPRETATION.)

2. FRENCH WERE SURPRISED BY THE EIGHT POINT ACCORD
AND TELL US THAT DJIME GREATLY EXCEEDED HIS INSTRU-

TIONS IN AGREEING TO IT. MALLOUM, THEY SAY, WAS FURIOUS. WHEN WE ALLOWED THAT DJIME MUST HAVE BEEN UNDER CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE WHILE IN LIBYA, WE WERE TOLD THAT THE MOST LIKELY LEVER USED AGAINST HIM WAS A LIBYAN CHECKBOOK.

3. WHATEVER THE SEBHA ACCORD MAY EVENTUALLY MEAN IT HAS APPARENTLY NOT TURNED OFF REBEL PROPAGANDA ATTACKS ON THE GOC BROADCAST FROM LIBYA. WE WERE TOLD THESE ATTACKS HAVE BECOME SOMEWHAT Milder BUT MORE SOPHISTICATED. SIMPLE TIRADES HAVE BEEN REPLACED WITH THE EXHORTATIONS OF "ST. GERMAIN RAIDCALS," INDICATING THAT THE LIBYANS HAD IMPORTED SOME NEW TALENT.

4. COMMENT: CHADIAN NEGOTIATING INEPTNESS (IN LIBREVILLE AS WELL AS AT SEBHA), ON TOP OF THEIR POOR MILITARY SHOWING IS CLEARLY FRUSTRATING TO THE GOF. FOR MONTHS THE FRENCH HAVE BEEN TELLING THE GOC THAT A MILITARY SOLUTION IS NOT POSSIBLE AND THAT IT MUST NEGOTIATE. HAVING WAITED UNTIL THE MILITARY SITUATION WENT FROM BAD TO TERRIBLE THE CHAD NEGOTIATORS WERE IN A WEAK POSITION AT SEBHA BUT EVEN SO THE FRENCH EXPECTED A BETTER PERFORMANCE. DESPITE THIS FRUSTRATION WE THINK THAT THE FRENCH WILL STICK BY THEIR DECISION TO PROP UP THE MALLOUM REGIME WITH LIMITED MILITARY FORCES. FRENCH SUPPORT FOR THE GOC
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IS SEEN HERE AS AN IMPORTANT SIGNAL TO FRANCE'S OTHER MODERATE AFRICAN FRIENDS THAT FRANCE CAN BE COUNTED ON. ALSO, WITH THE FRENCH ELECTIONS OUT OF THE WAY THERE WILL BE LESS CONCERN ABOUT DOMESTIC CRITICISM. (IN FACT, THERE SEEMS LITTLE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE FULL EXTENT OF FRENCH INVOLVEMENT.) FRENCH RESOLVE COULD WEAKEN, HOWEVER, IF ANTI-FRENCH SENTIMENT SUCH AS SHOWN DURING THE MINOR DEMONSTRATION LAST WEEK IN ABECHÉ AGAINST THE FRENCH PRESENCE WERE TO BECOME MORE GENERALIZED.
HARTMAN

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